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LOOKING FORWARD

On August 10, Missouri successfully celebrated its 200th birthday, and now, we are looking forward. The challenge we have been given is: "While a time of celebration, it is also a time to reflect and to build a strong future for the State, setting the course for Missouri's next 200 years". Of course, as family history researchers, we will still need to look at the past 200 years to find new information about our Missouri ancestors.

This month, both Al Morse and I are still presenting our Missouri pioneers. Fortunately, Al has some research done by his cousin, Laura Frances Scott that he can use as a part of his research, and I have my mother's research. Both of us as retired teachers, are glad we are not beginning a new academic year with the many challenges still facing teachers and students who are beginning a new year. Julia Morse is beginning a new year at Kansas State, and the schedule did not permit her to submit articles this month, but we understand the challenges being faced by teachers at all levels, and we know she will be back with more excellent articles in September.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Al Morse

Thomas Farnsworth was born February 7, 1648 in Northingshire, England. Susannah Ellis was born January 17, 1649 in Yorkshire, England. Thomas and Susannah were married on or about November 20, 1672. Thomas was a cordwainer, a shoe maker. They were Quakers. He had been arrested because of his religion. Thomas arrived in Philadelphia in 1677 on the ship Kent. He, however, went upstream on the Delaware River and settled in New Jersey. Susannah and two children arrived at Burlington, New Jersey in 1678 on the ship Shield. She was a Quaker preacher. Five more children were born in New Jersey. The youngest was Thomas Henry, born in 1691 or 1692. This was possibly after his father's death, as he is not listed in his father's will. He is, however, listed in his mother's will.

Henry married Mary Brinson in 1715 in New Jersey. They had eight children. The youngest was Thomas Henry Farnsworth, Jr., born about 1740. He married Elizabeth Bray in New Jersey. They had three children. The youngest was Daniel, who was born in 1766 in New Jersey. He married Rachel Elizabeth Stout about 1791 in Staten Island, New York. They had five children. The youngest was Isaac, who was born about 1800 in New York.

Isaac married Louisa Tracey about 1830 in Wheeling, Virginia, later to be West Virginia. They had seven children. The first was Rachel Elizabeth, born August 29, 1831 in New York. She married Joseph Mooney on October 21, 1847 in Wheeling, Virginia. They had seven children. The first three were born in Wheeling.

In June, 1854, Isaac and Louisa, their six children, and Joseph and Rachel Elizabeth, left Virginia. They traveled by boat on the Ohio, Mississippi, and Missouri Rivers. They were headed to Liberty Landing, Clay County, Missouri. Isaac became ill and died of cholera and was buried at night on the banks of the Missouri River between St. Louis and Liberty Landing.

Louisa raised her children in Liberty. Joseph and Rachel Elizabeth had four more children, who were born in Clay County, Missouri. They lived and farmed in Clay County during the Civil War. The youngest child was Laura Jessie, born April 21, 1871. She married David Janssens on April 23, 1889 in Kansas City, Missouri. They had fourteen children. Child number twelve was my mother, Mildred Catherine, born October 21, 1910 in Parkville, Missouri. The family moved to Walnut Township, Bates County, Missouri in 1917. David Janssens died

December 2, 1920.

Albert Frank Morse was born July 11, 1910 in New Home Township, Bates County, Missouri. In May, 1927, Mildred Janssens and Albert Morse both graduated from the 10th grade in Foster, Walnut Township, Bates County, Missouri. If they wanted to graduate from high school, they would have to go to Butler, Rich Hill, or Hume. Albert was told he was needed on the farm. Mildred moved to Rich Hill, Bates County, Missouri with her mother and some of her brothers still living at home. They had a dairy business for several years. On May 23, 1939 Laurie Jessie Janssens died. Mildred had moved back to the home after her mother had a stroke about 1936. Albert and Mildred became acquainted again and were married on November 6, 1940. They had two sons. I am the oldest, born January 3, 1942. This was less than one month after December 7, 1941, the attack on Pearl Harbor. I can only imagine what had to be going through their minds during this entire time. .

MISSOURI **PIONEERS:** **THE SLAVENS IN HENRY COUNTY**

Marjorie Slavens

John Slaven (1723-1802) came from Northern Ireland to Pennsylvania before 1750. He served in the Army in Delaware and also met and Married Elizabeth (Betty) Stewart (1726-1795) of Scotland and Delaware. They moved first to Augusta County now Rockingham County, Virginia and later to Bath County, now Highland County. They had 10 children, and Reuben, child 7, was our ancestor. Isaiah, 5, Reuben, 7, and Henry, 10, all added the final "s" to the surname. (Slavens) The descendants of all three brothers settled in different parts of Missouri. Reuben (1763-1839?)- married Sally Nancy Kennison in what is now West Virginia. They first moved to Scioto County, Ohio but later moved to better land in Pike County.

Reuben's fourth child, John Slavens (1798-1865), first married Mary Ruckman in Pike County, and they had one son, Reuben. After her death, John married Rebecca Meade Brace Crull (1800-1881), who was born in New York. My great great grandfather, George Washington Slavens, was their first child. John and Rebecca first went to Indiana and Illinois and later to Rives County, now Henry County, Missouri

Reuben Slavens (1825-1891) was born in Pike County, Ohio. He moved to Missouri with his father, John, and step-mother, Rebecca, in 1837. He married Nancy Stephenson of Jackson County, Ohio in 1849 and served in the Union Army from Ohio 1862-65, and he returned to Henry County to farm in 1865. He and his wife are buried in Bethlehem Cemetery in Henry County. Their son, John, moved to Barton County, Missouri.

George Washington Slavens (1829-1907) was born in Scioto County Ohio and moved to Henry County in 1837 with his parents, one step-brother, Reuben and a step-sister, Nancy Ann Brace. Their sisters, Margaret Melinda (1839-1899), married Peyton Parks, Ruthette (1840-?), married William Paxton, and Elizabeth (1844-1928), married William Terrill, were born in Henry County. (Biographies of both Reuben and George Washington Slavens are included in *1883 History of Henry County Missouri,* National Historical Co pg Pg:792 Some information in these biographies is not correct.)

George Washington Slavens married Nancy Jane Parks in 1853. They had 6 children: Mary Calista (1854-1933), married to William Ballard; William P. 1856-1870; John Reuben (1859-1887);, married Laura Martin Hesler; Lillie Mae (1862-1872; Susan E. 1864-1955), married Willard A. Crews; and Jessie Yantis (1867-1944), married Harry Holland Parks.

G. W. Slavens married Agnes Jane Parks Nichols in 1873, and their children were: Edna Gertrude (1874-1961), married Frank Brown, son of G. W. Slavens[third wife, Sarah; Effie B. 1877-1893); Nancy Elizabeth (1879-1967, married Harry Paul Brown; Charles Stewart (1883-1962), married Effie Minerva Martin.

George Washington Slavens married Sarah (Sallie) Settles Brown on March 1, 1885. She was born December 20, 1848 and died March 15, 1954 at Clinton, Missouri. He died July 23, 1907 at Clinton, Missouri and is buried in Bethlehem Cemetery. Both

Agnes Jane Parks Nichols Slavens, his second wife, and Sarah (Sally) settles Brown Slavens, his third wife, are buried in Bethlehem Cemetery.

"Obituary: SLAVENS, George Washington
1829-1907
Bethlehem Cemetery, Bethlehem Twp, Henry Co, MO
Clinton, MO, July 1907 - Buried Yesterday - The funeral of George Slavens, who died Tuesday night of old age, was conducted Wednesday, after which the body was laid to rest in Bethlehem Cemetery. Uncle George was one of Henry County's pioneer residents. - G. W. Slavens, who for some time has been in poor health, died at his home on East Ohio street Tuesday evening July 23, 1907, at 7:15. A native of Ohio and was born in Scioto County, November 23, 1829 and came to Henry County in 1837 and located in Bethlehem township, where he owned one of the best farms in the county. A few years ago he moved to Clinton and bought a neat cottage on East Ohio street. Married three times, and a devoted and heart-broken wife, with five children, by his first two wives survive him. A member of the Christian church and a man among men. Funeral at Bethlehem. Mr. Slavens came to Missouri with his parents when he was nine years old. In 1851, he, with his father and a number of others, went to California in search of gold but were unsuccessful. On returning home, he homesteaded some land and added to this from time to time until he owned one of the most pleasant and comfortable homes in Henry County. On August 4, 1853, he married Miss Nancy Jane Parks but, in a few years, death claimed her and he was left with six little ones. He had to taste the bitter cup so often in life. Two of these children, Willie and May, died in childhood and John R. died in California and left a wife and two children; the oldest, Mrs. Mary C. Ballard, lives in Washington, Mrs. Susan Crews in Liberty and Mrs. Jessie Parks in Henry County. Seven years later he married Mrs. Agnes Jane Nichols on August 31, 1873. She brought with her one son, James P. Nichols, who lives with his family near Brownington. This union had four children; Mrs. Edna G. Brown, who lives near Clinton; Effie B., who died at 16; Mrs. Nannie Brown and Chas. S. Slavens of Clinton. When the youngest of these was five weeks old, the mother was taken away. Mr. Slaven's widowed mother lived with him and one could see him going to her room three times a day to see if she was warm and comfortable. He was married March 1, 1885 to Mrs. Sallie Brown. They, with her three boys, Harry, Frank and Allie, and the four that were there always had a joyous welcome for the older children when they visited the dear old home and today ten children mingle their tears together for the loss of him who found great pleasure in making for them a pleasant and comfortable home."

My grandfather, William Howard Slavens (1883-1940), was the son of John Reuben Slavens. He was born January 15, 1883 in Henry County, 12 days after the birth of his father's youngest brother. John Reuben and his sisters, Mary Slavens Ballard and Susan E. Slavens Crews and their families went to California in March 1887, where John Reuben died. His wife, Laura, and sons, Howard and Frank, returned to Henry County, but they soon moved to Kentucky, where Laura Hesler Slavens married her cousin, David William Hesler in 1893. They did not return to Henry County. My grandfather inherited some money from his great grandmother, Susan Parks and possibly also from his grandfather, G. W. Slavens, with which he bought a farm near Wicks, Arkansas in 1908. The farm was not profitable, and he and his family moved to Pittsburg, Kansas, where my father, Ralph Westmeier Slavens attended school. His mother, Edna Marie Westmeier Slavens, corresponded with Edna Slavens Brown for many years, but we had very little contact with the Henry County Slavens. When George Washington Slavens' third wife, Sarah Settles Brown Slavens died at 105 in Clinton, my father and grandmother, along with other living members of the family, received a small inheritance from the sale of the Slavens home on Ohio Street in Clinton, which was a part of the George Washington slavens estate left at the time of his death in 1907. My father never met his father's Slavens family in Henry County. My mother and I were able to talk about the family with Ruth Elizabeth Slavens Goad, the daughter of my great grandfather's younger brother, Charles Stewart Slavens, but we never met any of the family members who lived in Henry County.

WELTY FAMILY LETTERS

Marjorie Slavens

My mother, Mildred Welty Slavens, knew very little about her ancestors beyond her grandparents before she began her family research in the 1970s. After she published her first *Peter Welty Family History,* her cousin sent her some family letters which their grandfather, Henry Welty, had received from his Ohio family after he moved to Missouri.

"Recently, when my cousin, Aileen Welty Priestley, daughter of Uncle Charlie, the oldest son of Henry and Catharine Welty, gave me the letters included below, I did not know how much contact he made with his family after he left Bremen, Ohio. He evidently wrote and received letters from them, but although he planned to return for a visit, he must not have been able to afford the time or the money to make the trip" (Mildred Welty Slavens, *Welty Family Letters,* Raymore, Missouri: August, 1999)

Mother wanted to preserve the letters and pictures, and I suggested she publish for the family a small book in order to share these letters with other family members. The book includes letters from Henry Welty's sisters, Elizabeth Welty Rodehafer 1824-

1905) and Mary Magdalene Welty Thompson (1839-1893), who continued to live in or near Bremen Ohio for their whole lives. Three letters which her grandfather received from his brother, David, while he was in military service during the Civil War have previously been published in this newsletter. In addition, there are some letters from his nephew, John A. Graffis, son of Anna Welty Graffis (1827-1874), who was trying to settle the estates of Henry's father, John Welty, his brother, David, and the estate of his brother Abraham, who had borrowed money from their father to purchase land in Nodaway County, Missouri. There is also a letter from Ellen Kern Welty, Abraham's wife, who wanted to purchase her husband's land in Missouri.

All of the transactions concerning the land and the estates had to be completed by mail. John A. Graffis had moved from Ohio to California and then to Oregon. He rented his farm in Oregon and returned to Ohio for two years to try to settle the various estates, and this work was not completed until around 1881, although David died in 1863, Abraham in 1873, and their father, John, in 1875.

One of the letters she received was written by her grandmother, Catharine, to her younger daughter, Nettie, who was living in Clinton with her brother and sister-in-law, John and Minnie Mashburn Welty, before returning to Jasper County to Marry Arthur Derr; they lived on a farm adjoining her parents' farm. Aunt Nettie corresponded with Hope Welty, daughter of Solomon Welty, oldest brother of Henry, who lived in Cerro Gordo, Illinois and Hope was a teacher there.

Mother also wanted to include information in this book about the teachers in her family. David Welty had been a teacher and farmer before he entered military service. Henry was a teacher when he went to Jasper County around 1867, and his wife, Catharine Mary Eppright Welty, was one of his students. Henry and Catharine were married in March, 1870, and they had 8 children, four of whom, Charlie, John, Frank, and Nettie, were teachers. In Ohio, Lillie, daughter of Abraham, Emma, daughter of Anna, and in Illinois, Hope, daughter of Solomon were also teachers. Uncle Charlie later worked for the railroad, first moving to Joplin and later to Kansas City, and Nettie taught until she was married. Mother completed 2 of 3 years of a teacher training program in Kansas City, Kansas Before she was married. At that time, married women were not permitted to continue teaching. My brother, Dr. G. Everett Slavens, and I have kept up that part of the family tradition. He taught History for 2 years at the College of the Ozarks and 36 years at Ouachita Baptist University, and I taught Spanish 3 years at Western College for Women and 33 years at Rockford University.

WELTY FAMILY MEMORIES

Mildred Welty Slavens

When I was growing up, I knew very little about my grandparents, Henry and Catherine Eppright Welty. I knew my grandfather was from Ohio and had served in the army during the Civil War. He died when I was six months old. In his last months, he lived in the Federal Soldiers' Home in Leavenworth, Kansas, where he died on June 14, 1911. My mother said he tried to come to Kansas City, Missouri to see me the week before his death, but my parents had taken me to Asbury, Missouri to see my other grandparents, Charles and Millie Kerr.

My grandmother lived in Duval Township, Jasper County, Missouri all of her life, and she died there on November 22, 1928. I doubt that she had traveled much further than 20 miles from the house where she was born. Her parents, Jonathan and Eddy Meadows Eppright, were pioneers in the area, having moved to Jasper County about 1840 from Crawford County, Indiana.

Henry Welty went first to Illinois following the Civil War and then to Jasper County, Missouri. He was a teacher, and Catherine Eppright was one of his students. Since there was a great deal of military activity in the region during the Civil War, it is likely that there was no school during that period, and she was still in school. After their marriage on March 10, 1870, they bought land near her parents. They later sold this property and moved to another location not far from there. (Just south of the Barton County line near Nashville) My grandmother lived in this house until her death.

We visited my grandmother in the summer of 1925. We first visited Uncle Frank and Aunt Belle near Stockton and then went to the Welty farm. Grandma Welty lived there with her youngest son, Uncle George.

The house had a living room and bedroom on the first floor. It faced the west, and there was no porch on the front of the house. The living room was on the north side of the house, and the bedroom was on the south. When the house was first built, these were the only rooms. Behind the living room was the dining room. There was a porch along the side of the dining room. On the south side of the dining room and behind the bedroom was the kitchen. Between the door joining the dining room and the kitchen and the stairway was a pass-through window through which the food was passed from the kitchen. I was fascinated with this window because I had never seen anything like it. There were two bedrooms upstairs over the living room and the downstairs bedroom. The room on the north was the boys' bedroom with two beds, and the room on the south was the girls' room with one bed. It was very hot upstairs in the summer.

My mother said the Weltys ordered their first furniture for this house from Sears-Roebuck. In 1925, they had a telephone and were on a party line, where they answered the telephone according to the number of long and short rings that indicated their number. It was the best way they could communicate with their friends and neighbors since the roads were not good, and transportation was difficult when the weather was bad.

My father said the boys slept three across a bed. The Weltys worked hard on the farm, but with eight children, there was never enough money. My father said they took cold oatmeal to school for their lunch. They were helped by the money Henry Welty received from the estates of his grandmother, Elizabeth Brumbach Miller, from his father, John Welty, and from the land in Tama County, Iowa which was originally purchased by his brother, David Welty, who died from injuries he suffered in the Civil War.

Henry Welty had a teaching certificate for LaSalle County, Illinois in 1867. This was the county in which his brother, Abraham Welty, had lived in the 1860 census. He also had two teaching certificates in Missouri, one from Lawrence County on May 9, 1868 and the other from Jasper County on September 17, 1870.

His brother, David, was a teacher and farmer. He bought land in Howard Township, Tama County, Iowa July 28, 1856.

Henry's oldest brother, Soloman, went to live in Illinois before 1859, when he married Martha Smith. They first lived in Macon County, but they later moved to Cerro Gordo, Piatt County. Soloman's brother, John, later joined him there. Another brother, Abraham, also lived in LaSalle County, Illinois north of Piatt County. Their father, John, visited the Illinois families and son, Abraham, who had moved to northwest Missouri, but it was very difficult to travel to southwest Missouri where Henry and Catherine Eppright had purchased a small farm near her parents' land. Henry always seemed to want better land than the original farm.

(Letter from oldest brother, Soloman.)

Cerro Gordo, Ill.
June 30 1872

Dear Brother Henry

It is a long time since we heard from you. I do not know how to direct a letter to you but I will make an effort. Father is here and wishes to send a draft for five hundred dollars. Please find enclosed. He has been to your state to see Abe and intended to visit you being feeble and no railroad conveyance to your place failed to do so. He leaves here tomorrow for home. I do not know what to write for myself that will interest you except our good health and we have a fine prospect for good crops of all kinds and our town and country is still improving instead of the old rickety schoolhouse we had when you was here we have a two story house with four rooms and have about two hundred scholars this term just closed last evening with 9 splendid exhibitions. Now Henry if this comes to hand I want you to write immediately and also to father for we will be

anxious about the draft. Brother John is also living here still a bach yet. Henry it is too warm to write a long letter. I will close by sending our love.

Your brother,

Sol

Although the mail was slow and it was difficult to assure that it would arrive, the draft for $500.00 from John Welty to his son, Henry, arrived. Henry and Catherine were living on a small farm near her parent's property and had one daughter, Mary.

The following letter was sent by Henry to his father to thank him for the money.

Medoc, Missouri
July 14, 1872

Dear Father:

We received a letter from Soloman last week containing a draft for five hundred dollars. There being no instructions as to what I shall do with it, I suppose you intend it as a present. That being the case, we return our sincere thanks and shall endeavor to use the money in such a way that you will never regret giving it to us.

I should like to put it in land, but there is none handy to me that I can get. I think something of going west if I can sell here.

I just finished my oats harvest yesterday and have a very good crop. The oats crop in this county is as good as I have ever seen. Wheat is rather light. I was sick all last fall and only got three acres sown. I want to sow fifteen or twenty acres this fall if I can. The corn crop here will be good generally if we get a few more rains in time. I will not have much corn as I have none but sod corn planted.

I wish you could have paid us a visit, when you was west, but can look over it for you would have to change cars often and we are about twenty-five miles from the nearest railroad.

I have nothing more to write and will close by saying that we are well and hope that you and all the rest are well.

From your son,

Henry

(This is the only letter written by my grandfather that I have.)

With the sale of his land near the Eppright property and his income from the inheritance from his father's estate, Henry and Catherine Welty were able to purchase a second farm of 80 acres. The first farm had 40 acres and was near the North Fork of Spring River close to Highway 43. The new land was better and the location further from the river was superior. The land was purchased in 1884, and the mortgage was paid in 1901.

After completing his work on the Welty estate, John A. Graffis must have gone to Oregon in around 1885. He returned to Ohio to visit in 1901. Many of the people in Henry's generation had died, and he no longer seems to have had as much contact with the family. John A. Graffis had been one of his witnesses when he applied for a pension, and his affidavit was sent from Oregon.

My grandmother lived on farms near Medoc all of her life. Education was difficult in the early years, and she was about 20 when she finished school. Four of her children, Charlie, Frank, John, and Nettie, were teachers. Aunt Nettie went to Clinton to live with Uncle John and Aunt Minnie, and one letter was written by my grandmother to Aunt Nettie.

My Uncle Charlie was a teacher in Jasper County, Missouri. He had to take an examination for his teaching certificate. He had not had courses for some of the material, and he wrote that his certificate would have been granted for five years rather than two if he had had the courses to prepare him for the examination. One of the schools where he taught was the Silver Creek School. There are two pictures from 1901 and from 1902 of him with his students.

Uncle Charlie wrote the following poem on April 13, 1901.
(Composed and written by C. E. Welty)

That Silver Creek School

How dear to my heart are those Silver Creek classes,
Those classes of pupils at Silver Creek here,
Those ruddy-faced laddies and gay bonnie lasses,
Places in my memory shall ever hold dear.
O'er Silver Creek District two years I presided,
Years that I hope have been profitably spent.
I found every type of pupils resided there,
And tried to instruct those in learning, who went.
There were mischievous pupils,there were well-behaved pupils,
There were all types of pupils in Silver Creek School.
These well-behaved pupils to teach was a pleasure.
Those who were studious and obeyed every rule.
Oh, wouldn't we teachers regard it a treasure,
If all were such children attending our school.
Half a dozen or so were somewhat mischievous.
They laughed and they whispered and wasted their time.
To teach such as they was a task sorely grievous,
It's a shame to have records like theirs in this rhyme.
There were mischievous pupils, there were well behaved pupils.
'Mong those 45 pupils of Silver Creek School.
I am very well pleased the way most are advancing,
Their lives I am sure will be a success,
Already their power in the world is enhancing,
They'll hold high positions of trust, I'll just guess.
You'll see their names later in some daily papers,
When that free mail delivery commences its round,
In the K. C. Journal you'll read of their capers,
Of engagements, and weddings, you'll read I'll be bound.
Oh, that free mail delivery, that daily delivery,
That delinquent delivery at Silver Creek School.
When in bright lovely springtime my day's labors were ended,
And the burden and cares from my mind I could roll,
With gun and with fish hook, down East Lane I wended,
And away to the scented woods I would stroll.
Alas! when the duck or the squirrel or the quail
Inadvertently came within range of my gun,
Alas to the sun fish, the catfish, the whale--
But I kindly spared all--no never hurt one.
Oh! those lovely spring evenings, those delightful evenings,
Those evenings I spent at the Silver Creek School.
Dear parents and pupils: I say these words sadly.
The time has now come to bid you goodby,
I tell you in truth, it pains my heart badly,
As the time for our parting begins to draw nigh.
May our two years together be ever remembered,
May it be a bright link in memory's chain.
With the faithful and just let us strive to be numbered,
In the land of the blessed may we all meet again.
Oh! that Silver Creek District, that much-beloved district,
I'll remember that district the Silver Creek School.
(Composed and written by C. E. Welty)

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